

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 12, 16-20, 24, 26-31, 33-38, 40, 47, 49-50 and 53-56 are pending in the application.

As an initial matter, the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is acknowledged and appreciated.

Claim Objections

Claims 40, 49 and 50 have been objected to as being dependent from canceled claims. These claims have been amended to depend from either claim 1 or claim 53, addressing the objection.

Section 112 Rejections

Claim 55 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 55 overcomes this rejection.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 53-56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,170,254 to Jackson ("Jackson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,456,048 to Markow ("Markow"). This rejection is respectfully traversed as follows.

It is respectfully submitted that Jackson and Markow, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the elements of independent claim 53. For instance, Jackson and Markow do not teach or suggest a tubular reinforcement body that comprises an annular belt and a plurality of blocks which are supported by the said annular belt in positions adjacent to one another and are in a radial internal position with respect to the belt such that the blocks project towards the interior of the tyre, the blocks being hollow bodies, as recited in independent claim 53. Rather, as noted in the Office Action, Jackson is silent with respect to the inclusion of a tubular reinforcement body comprising an annular belt and a plurality of blocks. In Markow, V-shaped members 52 are attached "around the outer periphery 62 of the band element." *See*

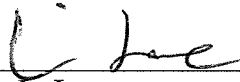
Markow col.7 1.1-3. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 53 and the claims that depend therefrom are patentable over Jackson in view of Markow.

Conclusion

It is believed that the present application is in condition for consideration and allowance. If necessary, the Commissioner hereby is authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-2298 of Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps for any additional fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17.

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Respectfully submitted,



Eric L. Lane
Reg. No. 56,399
Attorney for Applicant

LUCE, FORWARD, HAMILTON & SCRIPPS LLP
600 West Broadway, Suite 2600
San Diego, California 92101
Tel.: (619) 236-1414